

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----021109Z 034851 /12

O R 020915Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6181
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 891

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: RF, PFOR
SUBJECT: RHODESIAN RAID INTO MOZAMBIQUE

REF: (A) CAPE TOWN 883, (B) STATE 124623,

1. HAWKINS HAS JUST PROVIDED US THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE FROM SMITH TO THE POINTS MADE BY THE AMBASSADOR TO HAWKINS ON MAY 31. IN DELIVERING THE RESPONSE, HAWKINS ADVISED HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO ADD VERBALLY THAT "THE HECTORING TONE OF THE MESSAGE GIVEN TO ME BY MR. BOWDLER WAS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE OF LAST WEEK'S TALKS WITH THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE TEAM IN SALISBURY AND COULD ONLY MAKE MORE DIFFICULT THE PM'S TASK OF GAINING WHITE ACCEPTANCE FOR A SETTLEMENT. THERE IS MORE AND MORE EVIDENCE OF A WHITE BACKLASH BUILDING UP, AND THE ONE-SIDED COMMENTS OF THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS FAN THESE FEELINGS." HE ALSO PROVIDED THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT
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BY P.K. VAN DER BYL WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 1. HAWKINS ADDED THAT WITHDRAWAL OF RHODESIAN FORCES FROM MOZAMBIQUE WAS ORDERED AT NOON, JUNE 1, BEGAN SHORTLY THEREAFTER AND AS OF THIS MORNING WAS NEAR COMPLETION.

2. TEXT OF SMITH RESPONSE:
"THE CURRENT ACTION IN MOCAMBIQUE IS ESSENTIALLY AN ACT OF

SELF-DEFENCE DESIGNED TO REDUCE AND IF POSSIBLE ELIMINATE TRANS-BORDER ATTACKS BY TERRORISTS ON THE CIVILIAN POPULATION IN THE SOUTH-EASTERN AREA OF RHODESIA. HELPLESS BLACK TRIBESMEN ARE THE MAIN VICTIMS OF THE TERRORISTS, WHO HAVE MURDERED MORE THAN 1200 CIVILIANS INCLUDING FEWER THAN 100 WHITES. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE CURRENT ACTION WILL LEAD DIRECTLY TO THE SAVING OF MANY LIVES.

"SUCH ACTIONS ARE MADE INEVITABLE, FIRSTLY BECAUSE THE MOCAMBIQUE AUTHORITIES PERMIT THE TERRORISTS TO SET UP BASES IN THEIR COUNTRY AND GIVE THEM EVERY FACILITY AND ASSISTANCE IN CARRYING OUT THEIR MURDEROUS INCURSIONS INTO RHODESIA; AND SECONDLY BECAUSE THE WESTERN POWERS HAVE BROUGHT NO EFFECTIVE INFLUENCE TO BEAR ON EITHER THE TERRORISTS OR THEIR HOSTS TO DE-ESCALATE HOSTILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. THIS LATEST AMERICAN THREAT TO INCREASE THE PRESSURES ON RHODESIA IS AN INDICATION OF THEIR ONE-SIDED ATTITUDE, WHICH CAN ONLY SERVE TO ENCOURAGE THE TERRORISTS TO SEEK CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY BY VIOLENCE. EQUALLY THERE HAS BEEN NO AMERICAN CONDEMNATION OF THE NUMEROUS BOMBARDMENTS AND INCURSIONS BY FRELIMO TROOPS.

" THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NO AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS AGAINST ITS NEIGHBOURS BUT IT HAS THE CLEAR DUTY TO PROTECT ITS CITIZENS AGAINST TERRORISM BY WHATEVER MEANS ARE AVAILABLE TO IT. ITS DETERMINATION IN THIS REGARD IS STRENGTHENED AND NOT DIMINISHED BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE RHODESIAN POPULATION CAN EXPECT NO HELP FROM THE AMERICAN AND OTHER WESTERN GOVERNMENTS IN RESISTING TERRORIST ATTACKS FROM NEIGHBORING
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TERRITORIES.

" EVER SINCE THE MEETING WITH DR KISSINGER LAST SEPTEMBER THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT HAS REPEATEDLY STATED - AND PROVED BY ITS ACTIONS - ITS READINESS TO COOPERATE IN ACHIEVING A SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT PEACEFULLY. RHODESIAN RECORDS SHOW THAT DR KISSINGER CONFIRMED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD SCRUPULOUSLY OBSERVED THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT REACHED IN PRETORIA AND THIS WAS REPEATED BY UNITED STATES OFFICIALS IN GENEVA. THAT CONFERENCE FAILED BECAUSE OF THE INTRANSIGENCE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT BUT THE ONLY THANKS RHODESIA GOT FOR HER COOPERATION WAS TO HAVE THE BYRD AMENDMENT REPEALED. DESPITE RHODESIAN RESENTMENT OF THIS UNCALLED FOR ACTION, THE PRIME MINISTER HAS COOPERATED FULLY IN THE CURRENT ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE. THE SAME CAN HARDLY BE SAID OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

" IT SHOULD BY NOW BE CLEAR TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THAT THE OBJECT OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, KNOWING THEY HAVE NO

HOPE OF WINNING A DEMOCRATIC ELECTION ON ANY FRANCHISE, IS TO DOMINATE THE COUNTRY MILITARILY. THIS EXPLAINS THEIR UNCOM-PROMISING ATTITUDE. IF THEY WERE TO BE SUCCESSFUL THERE WOULD BE NO HOPE OF PEACEFUL TRANSITION OR A STABLE FUTURE FOR RHODESIA. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY ACTION BY AMERICA OR BRITAIN TO PREVENT THIS, THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO FOLLOW ITS PRESENT COURSE OF TOUGH, DEFENSIVE ACTION. IF, HOWEVER, THERE WERE TO BE ANY MEANING-FUL DE-ESCALATION BY THE TERRORISTS THIS WOULD BE MATCHED BY THE GOVERNMENT."

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 891

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3. TEXT OF VAN DER BYL STATEMENT:

"THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY, DR. OWEN, HAS PUBLICLY CALLED ON RHODESIA 'IN THE INTERESTS OF HER OWN PEOPLE' TO WITHDRAW RHODESIAN FORCES FROM MOCAMBIQUE TERRITORY, A SITUATION WHICH WOULD NOT HAVE ARISEN IF THE MOCAMBIQUE AUTHORITIES HAD NOT GIVEN FULL SUPPORT TO TERRORISTS ATTACKING THE BLACK AND WHITE CIVILIANS OF OUR COUNTRY AND HAD REFRAINED FROM COUNTLESS ACTS OF PROVOCATION BY THEIR OWN FORCES. IF DR. OWEN IS SINCERELY CONCERNED FOR THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA, HE SHOULD TAKE URGENT STEPS TO DISSUADE MOCAMBIQUE AND THE 'PATRIOTIC FRONT' FROM ACTS OF AGGRESSION AGAINST THEM.

"CURRENT EXTRA-TERRITORIAL MILITARY ACTIONS INSIDE
MOCAMBIQUE ARE IN FACT DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS DESIGNED TO
PREVENT INVADING GROUPS FROM BRINGING VIOLENCE AND BRUTALITY
INTO RHODESIA WHICH ARE IN THE MAIN PERPETRATED AGAINST
INNOCENT BLACK CIVILIANS. DR OWEN MAY RECALL THAT ON
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28TH MARCH, 1964 BRITAIN HERSELF CARRIED OUT A 'PREVENTIVE
STRIKE' AGAINST THE YEMENI TOWN OF HARIB IN RETALIATION FOR
YEMENI SUPPORT OF THE TERRORIST MOVEMENT IN ADEN. DR. OWEN
WILL ALSO KNOW THAT IN AUGUST, 1976 THE IRISH REPUBLIC'S
FOREIGN MINISTER, DR GARNET FITZGERALD, STATED THAT IN THE
PREVIOUS EIGHT MONTHS ALONE THERE HAD BEEN 304 BORDER
INCURSIONS BY BRITISH TROOPS, CROSSING INTO THE TERRORITY OF
THE IRISH REPUBLIC IN ORDER TO STRIKE AT I.R.A. TERRORISTS
OPERATING INTO NORTHERN IRELAND. DR. OWEN MAY LIKEWISE BE
AWARE THAT AT A MEETING OF E.E.C. MINISTERS IN LONDON YESTERDAY
(31ST MAY, 1977) A COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED REAFFIRMING THAT
'TERRORISM IS A CRIME FROM WHATEVER MOTIVE IT IS PRACTISED
AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS SUCH.'

"I SHOULD LIKE TO REITERATE THAT RHODESIA HAS NO HOSTILE
INTENTION IN SO FAR AS MOCAMBIQUE OR ANY OTHER OF HER NEIGHBOURS
IS CONCERNED. OUR INTENTION IS SOLELY TO PROTECT OUR OWN
CITIZENS OF ALL RACES FROM TERRORIST AGGRESSION ACROSS OUR
BORDERS.

"IN REGARD TO DR. OWEN'S CLAIM THAT OUR EXTRA-TERRITORIAL
MILITARY ACTIONS COULD JEOPARDIZE THE SUCCESS OF THE ANGLO-
AMERICAN SETTLEMENT INITIATIVE, I SHOULD LIKE TO REMIND
BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES THAT:

(A) MUGABE AND HIS RUSSIAN-SUPPORTED ZANLA TERRORISTS HAVE MADE
IT CLEAR THAT THEY ARE NOT INTERESTED IN A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT
OF THE RHODESIAN ISSUE AND IN FACT DESPISE AND DISTRUST THE
ANGLO-AMERICAN SETTLEMENT PLAN.

(B) MOCAMBIQUE, BY HER ACTION IN SUPPORTING ZANLA AND BY HER
HOSTILITY TO RHODESIA, IS LIKEWISE NOT FACILITATING A
SETTLEMENT BY PEACEFUL MEANS.

(C) HAVING EXPRESSED THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE ANGLO-AMERICAN
SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS, THE RUSSIANS POSE A MAJOR THREAT TO ALL
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PARTIES COMMITTED TO THE SEARCH FOR A NEGOTIATED OUTCOME, AND

IT IS THEY, AND NOT THE RHODESIANS, WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY TENSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

"I WISH TO EMPHASIZE RHODESIA'S DESIRE FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, AND I AM CONVINCED THAT ANY SETTLEMENT CANNOT INCLUDE THOSE PARTIES DEDICATED TO VIOLENCE. IT IS IN DR. OWEN'S OWN INTEREST, THEREFORE, FOR BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES TO STATE CLEARLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT THE WELFARE OF BLACK AND WHITE RHODESIANS MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THE AMBITIONS OF RUSSIAN-BACKED TERRORIST MINORITIES AND OVER THE INTERFERING DESIGNS OF THE 'FRONT-LINE' PRESIDENTS. SUCH A STATEMENT FROM DR. OWEN WOULD BE FAR MORE CONSTRUCTIVE IN ACHIEVING HIS DECLARED INTENTIONS THAN CRITICISM OF RHODESIA'S ACTION TAKEN IN DEFENCE OF HER OWN PEOPLE."BOWDLER

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